

# FACT SHEET

## FOR FACILITIES NEEDING RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS

### CLEAN AIR ACT §112(r) ACCIDENTAL RELEASE PREVENTION RULES

Chemical accidents can occur at facilities of any size. Many facilities handle substances that could pose a risk to the surrounding community if an accident were to occur. Working together through their trade associations, some facilities already have adopted standard operating practices that help to reduce the risk of accidents, improve overall performance, and limit costly downtime. Since June 20, 1996, an accidental release prevention rule from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has applied to facilities that use certain substances in specified amounts. This regulation requires facilities of all sizes that use these substances to develop a "risk management program" for preventing and responding to accidental releases.

**To comply, you need to develop a risk management program and then prepare and submit a written summary of it (a "Risk Management Plan" or RMP) to EPA's RMP Reporting Center by June 21, 1999.** Your plan will be available to state and local government agencies and community officials for use in planning for and responding to chemical accidents and to make the general public aware of the precautions you are taking with potential hazards at your facility. The type and quantity of substances you use -- not the size of your facility -- will determine whether you must report. If you handle, use, or store listed substances above a certain quantity, you will be required to develop an RMP.

There are three levels of requirements:

- **Program 1:** Processes with no accidents with specific offsite consequences within the past five years and remotely located with a hazard assessment showing worst-case releases would not affect the public.

- **Program 2:** These are relatively simple operations that do not involve chemical processing (e.g., retailers, propane users, non-chemical manufacturers, and other processes not regulated by OSHA's Process Safety Management (PSM) standard).

- **Program 3:** Higher-risk, complex processes subject to the OSHA PSM standard or classified in one of nine specified Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes.

#### Elements of Risk Management Planning

- An offsite consequence analysis that evaluates specific potential release scenarios, including worst-case and alternative scenarios
- A 5-year history of certain accidental releases of regulated substances from covered processes
- An integrated prevention program to manage risks from emergency releases
- An emergency response program
- An overall management system to supervise the implementation of these program elements
- A risk management plan (RMP), revised at least once every five years, that summarizes and documents these activities for all covered processes.

Based on their limited potential for serious offsite consequences, sources need not implement prevention programs, emergency response programs, or management systems for Program 1 processes. Sources with Program 2 or Program 3 processes must address each of the above elements.

**NOTE:** The University of Kentucky's Business and Environmental Assistance Program (BEAP), a free service funded by air emission fees, is available to provide assistance. Contact BEAP at (800) 562-2327.

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